

NORTH LODGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held at Arizona Chemical, Vigo Lane, Chester-le-Street on Tuesday 17th March 2015.

PRESENT: Chairman: Cllr. Mrs. E Forrester.
Councillors: Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. L. LeDune, Mrs. M. May,
Mrs. C. Walton, N. Alderson, D. Hall,
C. Noble-Nesbitt, J. Waugh.

County Councillor: P. May.

Clerk: Mr. D. Murrell.

Three Residents.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm with the Chairman welcoming everyone.

Item 1. 15/29 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Dr. D. Hartley and D. Snaith.

Item 2. 15/30 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Mrs. Caygill declared an interest as a Governor of Park View School.

Item 3. 15/31 Report of the Police

The Police were not present at the meeting but had provided a written report (Appendix 1, attached) and this was read out by the Clerk.

PCSO Christine Taylor will hold surgeries at Holyoake Communal Room on the first Thursday of each month at 10am.

Item 4. 15/32 Report of the County Councillor

The Chairman invited County Councillor P. May to give his report which included the matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 2).

The Chairman thanked the County Councillor for his report.

Item 5. 15/33 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th February 2015, draft copies of which had been previously circulated, were adopted as a true and accurate record of the Meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

Item 6. 15/34 Chairman's Report

a) Re Minute 15/22 section a). Re the Drum pond project, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill reported on a recent site meeting attended by Cllrs. Mrs. E. Forrester, Mrs. M. Caygill, Mrs. M. May, D. Snaith, County Cllr. P. May and two representatives of Coveris, the tenants of the land. It was agreed that this was a positive meeting and Coveris are now to make an offer to the Council re use and availability of the pond area. The Chairman advised that she had contacted the Environment Agency and a site meeting with them was arranged for 8th April.

- b) Re Minute 15/22 section b). Re a possible community room at Park View School, Cllr. Mrs. Caygill reported on progress made by the School, and advised of the request for funding made by the School to the Council. Councillors discussed this and raised questions re the School's asbestos register and the proposed terms of use of the room by the Council. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill will put forward these questions to the School and the financing request will be included in the April Council meeting Agenda.
- c) Re Minute 15/23 section a1). Re parking at Lombard Drive at school leaving time, Park View School had been grateful to the Council for action taken to attain an increased warden presence.
- d) Re Minute 15/23 section f2). Re a replacement millennium plaque, the Clerk had ascertained that the manufacturers were no longer in business and, therefore, another manufacturer was being sought.
- e) Re Minute 15/26). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill gave details re the request from Park View School for financial support for a sculpture design project. The financing request will be included in the April Council meeting Agenda.
- f) Re Minute 15/28 section d). Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that Park View School had completed re-pointing a section of the stone wall, not the entire wall.
- The Chairman reported on the matters contained in her written report attached (Appendix 3). Councillors thanked the Chairman for her report.

Item 7. 15/35 Portfolio Holders' Reports

The Chairman invited Cllr. Waugh to give his report.

a) Finance Cllr. Waugh's report included the matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 4).

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Waugh for his report and invited Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt to give his report.

b) Highways and Website

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt's report included the matters contained in his written report attached (Appendix 5).

1) Re fly-tipping on the Sustrans cyclepath, the Clerk will contact PCSO Taylor to request that action be taken.

2) Councillors raised concerns re certain movements of traffic around Northlands roundabout. County Cllr. May advised that he had previously raised this matter with the County Council but without any positive response.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt for his report and invited Cllr. Mrs. Caygill to give her report which included the following matters.

c) Play Areas

There had been no response from the County Council re the molehills at Merlin Drive play area. At Low Flatts play area, everything appeared to be in order although a short gap in a boundary still awaited new hedging being planted by the Gardener. Cllr. Mrs. Walton is to take this forward.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Caygill for her report and invited Cllr. Mrs. May to give her report.

d) Publicity

Cllr. Mrs. May advised that preparation of the Newsletter is to be included in the April Council meeting Agenda.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. May and invited Cllr. Mrs. Walton to give her report.

e) Horticulture

Cllr. Mrs. Walton and Cllr. Mrs. May presented the report attached (Appendix 6) re the meeting held on 26th February. Councillors discussed the proposals arising from that meeting and agreed the following.

Millennium Bed - to leave as is except to make it symmetrical.

Picktree Lodge rose bed - to be doubled in size or to create a second bed, depending on County Council access requirements.

The two new beds at the entrances to Kingsmere and Low Flatts Road to be retained.

Bed at the entrance to Longdean Park - to be retained in the custodianship of the Parish Council.

At Barley Mow - agreed to the installation of 3 new beds and 6 flower tubs.

These decisions will mean that the Parish Council takes on the financing of 7 County Council flower beds and the 6 flower tubs at Barley Mow. The Residents Association will be responsible for planting of 25 tubs. The Chairman of the Residents Association, in attendance, advised that 3 tubs at Camperdown park were available for re-siting elsewhere in the Parish. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill proposed that one of the tubs should be placed alongside the existing two at the entrance to Lombard Drive.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Walton and Cllr. Mrs. May for the report, and thanked the Residents Association for their considerable input into the project.

f) Planning

Cllr. Snaith had provided a written report (Appendix 7, attached) re the County Durham Plan. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Snaith, in his absence, for providing the report.

Item 8. 15/36 Correspondence

- 1) From North Lodge Residents Association
Agenda for meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2015.
- 2) From Post Office Ltd
Letter advising retention of Post Office at 137 Front Street, Chester-le-Street.
- 3) From Durham Constabulary
email re community spring bulb planting.
- 4) From Arizona Chemical
email re donation. Arizona Chemical asked that a donation be made to a cancer charity of the choice of the Parish Council.
Councillors agreed that the donation should be made to Cancer Relief UK.
- 5) From Durham Community Action Group
Advice of events and focus groups.
- 6) From the Information Commissioner
Confirmation of renewal of data protection registration.
- 7) From the Planning Inspectorate
email re publication of the inspector's interim report re the County Durham Plan.

- 8) From the County Durham Association of Local Councils
- a) Agenda for the Chester-le-Street CDALC Sub Committee meeting to be held on Saturday 21st March 2015.
 - b) email re fly tipping cameras.
 - c) email re neighbourhood planning and community buildings grants.
 - d) Notification of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting to be held on Thursday 9th April 2015.
 - e) email re Woodland Trust free trees.
 - f) email re NALC Star Councils awards 2015.
 - g) email re County Associations Regional Event to be held on 28th March 2015.
- 9) From Durham County Council
- a) email re parking in Lombard Drive.
 - b) email re bus shelter at North Road / Northlands roundabout.
 - c) email re consultation re devolution of powers to North east Combined Authority.
 - d) Notification of the Improved Environment Task Group meeting to be held on Thursday 19th March 2015.
 - e) email re biodiversity duty.
 - f) Notification of the AAP Board meeting to be held on Monday 23rd February 2015.
- 10) Various planning applications, approvals and refusals from Durham County Council, of which the following were within North Lodge Parish:-
- a) Application for erection of single storey front and rear extensions, and internal alterations, at 57 Leander Avenue.
 - b) Application for demolition of garage and two storey side extension, at 6 North Lodge.
 - c) Application for conversion of existing garage into habitable room and extension to front of existing garage to create a new garage, at 158 Picktree Lodge.
 - d) Application for erection of 2no. single storey sub stations, at 1 Drum Park.

Item 9. 15/37 Adoption of new Financial Regulations

The Chairman and Clerk together had prepared a draft document, copies of which had been previously circulated. Councillors discussed the document and agreed to adopt it as the Financial Regulations for the Council.

(Resolved - to adopt the Financial Regulations as provided in the draft document).

Item 10. 15/38 Rights of Way

Cllr. Noble-Nesbitt had identified footpaths between North Lodge and Picktree Lodge estates which had been used by the public without challenge for more than 25 years. Councillors agreed that the Clerk is to contact the County Council to request that these paths be made Rights of Way and added to the definitive map.

Item 11. 15/39 Annual Risk Assessment

Councillors discussed the annual Risk Assessment, draft copies of which had been prepared by the Clerk and previously circulated, and agreed to approve the Assessment in the form provided except for the addition of an explanatory note for the coding of low, medium or high risk.

(Resolved - to approve the Risk Assessment in the form provided with the addition of an explanatory note).

Item 12. 15/40 Payment of Accounts

	TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
	D. Murrell		Salary March 2015	
	D. Murrell		Expenses March 2015	
	Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension March 2015	
	HM Revenue & Customs	£219.80	P.A.Y.E.	
	Pot-It-On	£294.17	Horticulture	
	E. Forrester	£150.00	Chair's Quarterly Allowance	
	Cancer Relief UK	£50.00	Donation	

(Resolved - the payments be approved as submitted).

Item 13. 15/41 Other Matters for Information

Cllr. Mrs. Caygill advised that the County Council had recently planted replacement trees in Low Flatts Road in different positions to the removed trees. This had been done without any consultation with residents and, consequently, some residents had been unhappy at the outcome. Cllr. Mrs. Caygill had received representations from residents which had been advised to the County Council who had agreed to contact the residents. The Clerk is to ask the County Council for its protocol in consultations with residents and Parish Councils.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

North Lodge Parish Council

Accounts for the month as submitted to the Meeting of North Lodge Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st April 2015.

TO	AMOUNT	REASON	VAT
D. Murrell		Salary April 2015	
D. Murrell		Expenses April 2015	
Durham County Pension Fund		Clerk's Pension April 2015	
Durham County Council	£296.02	Attending to Tree Lights	£49.34
Pot-It-On	£	Horticulture	

Balance to 31st March 2015

Balance b/f	£31273.57	Balances at Bank:-	
Deduct Payments - March 2015	<u>£ 1408.03</u>	Current	£ 524.33
	£29865.54	30 Day	<u>£29406.32</u>
		Total	£29930.65
Add Bank Interest Received	<u>£ 15.11</u>		
		Deduct cheques not yet presented	<u>£ 50.00</u>
Balance c/f	£29880.65		£29880.65

PACT

Police & Communities Together



Area –Chester North

Current Priority

No Pact priorities currently set

Lambton Worm



Holyoake Communal Rooms



Local Community News

The derelict Pigeon Lofts at South Pelaw have been attracting the attention of youth, who are congregating on a weekend to consume alcohol. The Council have conducted a site visit in the hope of pulling it down and landscaping the area. An update on the outcome of their visit is expected soon

Chester Le Street News

172,000 residents are protected by Neighbourhood Watch, if you would like to join your Neighbourhood Watch or set one up for your area please contact Mrs Lesley Hunter

- Community Liaison Officer
- Durham Constabulary
- Chester le Street Police Office
- 0191 3752354

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

County Councillor Peter May North Lodge Parish Council Report March 2015

- **Burst watermain in Kingsmere** – have written to Council requesting update on when the new main will be installed

Scheduled to start between April 2015 and March 2016

- **Road collapses in North Lodge** due to burst watermain washing away subsoil under road. Refuse truck sinks in hole. Northumbria Water was blamed and repaired the road
- **Have written to DCC asking for Kingsmere road to be investigated re substructure and watermain bursts.** Have been reassured that all is ok
- **Supporting the Joint Residents Association/ Parish Council Horticultural Initiative.**
- **Double yellow lines for Kingsmere** – Have asked highways to consider putting double yellow lines at the entrance to North Road to stop parents parking whilst waiting for children from school – John Reed will be in touch
- **Durham County Plan**

The plan has been heavily criticised by Her Majesty's Inspector as being flawed with a suggestion that the Plan be withdrawn. Basically its too ambitious.

The Inspector suggests that The Drum Industrial Estate should not be expanded and that the 400 Executive houses in Lambton Park are not needed and that generally there is no need for all the housing developments suggested. (especially around Durham City).

DCC is seeking legal advice and have the backing of several leading industrialists whilst

- **Garden waste collection service update**

The first garden waste collections of 2015 get underway this month (March).

Residents who have already signed up to the Durham County Council service will receive their first collection between 17 and 27 March followed by fortnightly collections until October. Please note, garden waste collections in Teesdale are carried out by Rotters and different collection arrangements apply in this area.

What's happening now?

In the first week of March, those households already subscribed to the service will receive a collection calendar advising of the collection dates for the year and a bin sticker to display on their garden waste bin. Collection dates can also be found by entering the property postcode into 'My Durham' on the DCC website, www.durham.gov.uk.



We are continuing to deliver bins to those properties that are new to the service or where an additional bin or a bin exchange is requested. Residents can subscribe to the service at any point during the year. Calendars and stickers will continue to be issued to residents as they subscribe.

Bin sticker and calendar

Bin collection information

The bin sticker must be attached to the garden waste bin for it to be emptied. The sticker should be placed on the body of the bin underneath the handle. Bins should be put out for collection by 7.00am on the relevant collection day.

What goes in the bin?

It is important only items that can be composted are placed in the garden waste bin. The following items can go in the bin.

- Grass cuttings
- Shrubs
- Leaves
- Weeds
- Flowers and plants
- Hedge clippings
- Prunings
- Small branches (no thicker than 7cm in diameter)

Sign up for collections

More than 190,000 properties are eligible to receive garden waste collections. Residents can subscribe for garden waste collections at any time online at www.durham.gov.uk/gardenwaste or by calling 03000 26 1000. The annual fee is £20 or a three year subscription is available at the discounted rate of £50.

- **Was advised that rubbish was being dumped in the vicinity of Picketree Lodge Bridge**

Council have informed Sustrans and will monitor situation.

- **Attended meeting with Parish Council regarding the Pond** – awaiting report from Margaret Caygill

Highways report for the NLPC meeting of 17 March 2015

Highway Repairs: Apart from major work on replacing the North Road west footpath south of Low Flatts Road and laying new drives from the main road, recent DCC work includes kerbstone replacements at Hampton Court entrance, renewal of around 30 metres of footpath alongside 15 Picktree Lodge and a range of minor footpath repairs around the parish.

Lombard Drive single yellow line parking restrictions: Enforcement has been re-established by the traffic wardens (and PCSO) from 3pm to 4pm, directly opposite Park View School entrance. Additionally, DCC has put the repainting of all the yellow lines, including the zig-zags, into its schedule of work for the next six weeks, or so.

Sustrans Cycle Path: Along the north side of this path, around where it passes under the Picktree Lodge estate entrance bridge, all vegetation, including some large trees, has recently been cleared with the objective, it seems, of making additional footpath access to this stretch of the cycle path near where it passes across the parish boundary towards Washington. Unfortunately, this cleared site has become the victim of very unsightly and varied fly tipping, worthy of monitoring with the new detection camera now available.

Litter: The annual clearing of vegetation from each side of the Sustrans Cycle Path has revealed a major problem with litter, some of which the police may need to be aware of because of the concentrations of empty alcoholic drink cans to be found in several locations.

Rights of Way footpaths from Caxton Way and Merlin Drive (relevant to agenda item 10): As public rights of way, DCC would have a 'legal' responsibility to maintain these footpaths, rather than relying upon the present arrangements which could easily diminish given the continuing budget constraints upon the County Council.

C N-N 17/03/2015

In Attendance

Parish Councillor Elsie Forrester (Chairperson of North Lodge Parish Council)

Parish Councillor Carol Walton (Portfolio holder for Horticulture North lodge Parish Council)

Parish Councillor Maureen May (North Lodge Parish Council)

Jackie Martin (Chairperson of North Lodge Residents Association)

Durham County Councillor Peter May (North Lodge Division)

Apologies

Parish Councillor Linda LeDune (North Lodge Parish Council)

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The purpose of the meeting was for North Lodge Parish Council and North Lodge Residents Association to work in partnership on Horticulture for North Lodge Parish

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Present Responsibilities

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council employs a gardener –Frank Leighton - Pot it On. Frank works six hours per week.

Tasks and jobs vary, depending on Season and Weather.

The Parish Council are presently responsible for the planting and maintenance of the following ‘flower’ beds:

- a) One at entrance of Longdean Park. This could be taken over by County Council if funding available.
- b) One within Longdean Park.
- c) One at beginning of the 693 Road
- d) One pansy bed at entrance to Picktree Lodge (around name plinth).
- e) One rose bed at Picktree Lodge. Consideration for this bed to be enlarged, soil to be replaced with good top soil and extra roses to be planted.

- f) Millennium bed at entrance to Lombard Drive. Consideration for this bed to be enlarged, and ? Hostas added.
- g) One heather bed at Rickleton Picktree Village. (The gentleman next door kindly looks after this bed).
- h) One shrub bed close to Ash Meadows Picktree Village. (Mr & Mrs Kirkup (residents) kindly look after this bed).

Frank also maintains 3 small flower beds around bus shelter at bottom of North road (awaiting County Council to dig and prepare these new beds due to the new bus shelter being erected) Frank will then buy and plant shrubs - ? Climbing Hydrangeas etc., using £100 which Durham County Council has promised to allocate due to disruption. However County Councillor Peter May suggested contacting Dobbies Garden Centre for sponsorship of these beds.

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Although the Parish Council purchased and ‘own’ all the flower tubs within the Parish, the Residents Association has now taken over the responsibility for the planting and maintenance of these tubs. They are as follows:

- a) 4 tubs at Merlin Drive
- b) 4 tubs at Picktree Lodge (Gentleman in corner house helps with maintenance).
- c) 2 tubs at Picktree Village (Suzanne Kirkup helps with maintenance of these tubs).
- d) 2 tubs at Lombard Drive (Park View school – School pupils help to maintain these tubs)

- e) 3 tubs in Camperdown Park ((These may be removed in the future as they are not surviving very well).
- f) 2 tubs in Leander Avenue
- g) 8 tubs in North Road

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

- a) One flower bed at entrance to Lombard Drive.
- b) One flower bed at entrance to Kingsmere.
- c) One temporary flower bed in Kingsmere (formed from flowers not used this season on new roundabout).
- d) One temporary flower bed in Low Flats Road (formed from flowers not used this season on new roundabout).

PROPOSALS

Request David Murrell (Parish Council Clerk) to write to Durham County Council requesting them to prepare the three beds at the new bus stop in North Road ready for planting by Parish Gardener; and to pay £100 as agreed for plants.

- Dobbies Garden Centre to be approached for any sponsorship. Clerk to send correspondence.
- Millennium bed - ask Gardener to enlarge bed and perhaps plant some hostas.
- Picktree Lodge rose bed to be enlarged. Soil to be replaced with good top soil and extra roses to be planted by Gardener.
- Parish Council to write to Durham County Council to request more flower beds and costings for planting twice a year as below:
 - a) 3 flower beds at Barley Mow end of North Road (to be agreed between Parish Council and Durham County Council)
 - (b) Keep temporary 2 flowerbeds at Kingsmere and Low Flats Road as permanent.
 - (c) County Council to take over top of Longdean Park.

“Plus 2 flower beds (Kingsmere, and Lombard Drive which we presently pay for to Durham County Council. Total No of flower beds = 8. Parish Council to request from Durham County Council that all flower beds to be 2.5 metres in order to give maximum impact”.

- (d) 3 tubs at Barley Mow end of North Road (to be agreed between Parish Council and Durham County Council).

Durham County Council to be asked if substantial types of flowers can be used in flower beds. Cestria housing to be approached to request wild flowers to be planted around Wheatsheaf Pub (near bridge) area.

FUNDING

Propose to North Lodge Parish Council that a yearly budget is set and allocated for Horticulture within the Parish.

Beyond this funding, County Councillor Peter May to be asked for an allocation from his budget for the next two years. It may also be possible for match funding to be sort from other sources via the Residents Association (although this cannot be guaranteed).

Extras to be considered

Signs in North Lodge entrances and Barley Mow signs to be discussed.